

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1.-15. (cancelled)

16. (original) A closure and container combination, wherein said container contains a commodity and a headspace gas, and said closure displaces a portion of said headspace gas, comprising:

means for engaging said closure to a finish of said container;

a headspace-displacing member attached to said closure;

a clearance defined between said headspace-displacing member and said finish; and

means for sealing said closure against a sealing surface of said finish.

17. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said finish is wide-mouth.

18. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said headspace-displacing member displaces more than 25% of said headspace gas.

19. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said headspace-displacing member displaces more than 50% of said headspace gas.

20. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said headspace-displacing member displaces more than 75% of said headspace gas.

21. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said headspace-displacing member displaces more than 90% of said headspace gas.

22. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said headspace-displacing member displaces more than 95% of said headspace gas.

23. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said headspace-displacing member includes a hollow portion for housing an agent.

24. (currently amended) The closure and container combination of Claim 23 wherein said agent is at least one of an oxygen-scavenging agent, ~~a desiccant drying agent~~, and an active-carbon agent.

25. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 24 wherein said oxygen-scavenging agent is at least one of an iron based compound and an ascorbic acid.

26. (withdrawn) The closure and container combination of Claim 24 wherein said desiccant drying agent is at least one of silica and zeolite.

27. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said closure is made of a polymer containing an oxygen-scavenging compound.

28. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said container is made of a polymer.

29. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 28 wherein said polymer is generally heat-set.

30. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 28 wherein said polymer is polyester.

31. (original) The closure and container combination of Claim 30 wherein said polyester is substantially one of a polyethylene terephthalate and a polyethylene terephthalate copolymer.

32. (previously presented) The closure and container combination of Claim 16 wherein said means for sealing is one of threaded and snap-on attachment means.

33. (previously presented) A closure and container combination, wherein said container includes a finish, and contains a commodity and a headspace gas, and said closure displaces a portion of said headspace gas, comprising:

a headspace-displacing member attached to said closure;

a clearance defined between said headspace-displacing member and said finish; and

means for sealing said closure against a sealing surface of said finish.

34. (previously presented) The closure and container combination of Claim 33 wherein said means for sealing is one of threaded and snap-on attachment means.

35. (withdrawn) The closure and container combination of Claim 33 wherein said headspace-displacing member includes a headspace-commodity-shift member that shifts a portion of the commodity.